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BIRTHS.

On October 9th, at Shanghai, the wife of G. H. PHILLIPS, of a son.

On October 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. JOHN O. CURRIE, of Shanghai, a son.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of 20th September arrived, per the s.s. *Arcadia*, on Thursday, the 17th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, October 14th said:—The Shanghai team shot off to-day and scored 943. [This is a victory for Shanghai by five points over Hongkong. Last year the men of the Northern port scored 936.]

Congratulations will be tendered by his many friends to Mr. Guy Blood, one of the most enthusiastic of local volunteers on having received his commission. Several other officers, in addition to Lieutenant Blood, will make their debut at camp to-day.

H. E. Wu Ting Fang leaves Hongkong this week for Shanghai and after a few days stay there will proceed to Peking for an imperial audience before his departure for America to take up his appointment as Minister to Washington. His Excellency takes office for three years. Formerly the salary and allowances attaching to the post amounted to \$250,000 per annum, but the cost of the embassy is being lessened by a reduction in the staff of secretaries, attachés, interpreters and writers which the Minister is this time taking with him.

The "Japan Mail" records the death of Mr. Robert Waddell Borthwick, who, in addition to being an old and popular resident of Yokohama, became latterly, by reason of his business connexions, known all over the Far East, including Hongkong. We note that Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Borthwick are registered as passengers on board the P. & O. s.s. *Syria*, from London (Sep. 28) for Hongkong.

It is reported that the Peking Government has consented to Viceroy Hsu Shih-chang's application to float a foreign loan of Yen 50,000,000. Negotiations, it is rumoured, will be opened with America. A telegram from Newchwang states that Viceroy Hsu Shih-chang has decided not to allow Messrs. Bush Brothers to exploit eight gold mines near Tung-hwa on the right bank of the Yalu. The latter are reported to be standing firmly on the ratification of the concession which H. E. Tseng Chi, the late Tartar General at Mukden, granted to them 1902.

The new Grain Commissioner of the Fohkien Province, Mr. Fu Jun, recently arrived at Foochow and called upon the Consuls. He is a Manchu and was formerly one of the Customs Officers in Peking where he made an excellent record. It was intended that he should go as Grain Commissioner to the province of Chekiang, but it was decided later that this would not do as one of his superior officers was a member of his own family which fact, according to Chinese custom, would make such an arrangement undesirable. [This is a scruple that England should acquire.] It was decided then that the former Grain Commissioner of Fohkien, Mr. Chi Yueh, should exchange appointments with Mr. Fu Jun so that the latter could go to Foochow.

The Wanchai police is investigating a certain larceny case have given to the world a pretty little love story. The wife of the comprador of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, residing at 78 Queen's Road East, reported that one of her servant maids, named Shui Ha, had disappeared and that a pair of gold bangles were also missing. For one month the police tried without success to trace the girl, but last week news was brought to the Police Station that she had been seen in Wellington Street. The search was renewed and Inspector Gourlay succeeded in locating the house. Accompanied by the comprador he entered the house, the door of which was opened by an Annamite in European attire. The girl was discovered on a bed feigning sleep and she was taken in custody on a charge of theft, though the bangles could not be found. Then Shui Ha explained that she went there because she liked the young man. She did not tell her mistress because she would want him to pay her money, and as the love sick maid knew her lover had no money she ran away. On leaving her mistress's house she was met by the Annamite who took her to Yaumati. There they lived for a week or so, when a chance meeting with an acquaintance made Shui Ha fear she would be traced. Accordingly she and her lover crossed to Hongkong and took lodgings in Wellington Street. When brought before Mr. C. D. Melbourne at the Magistracy on Oct. 5th the girl denied the theft, and was remanded. In the afternoon the Annamite, Tacon Tan, said to be a secretary to the French Consul, was arrested on a charge of harbouring a girl under age, and was detained in custody.

Introducing one of the speakers at the Shanghai banquet to Mr. Taft, Mr. H. B. Morse warned his hearers against falling into the error of implicitly trusting that in Oriental affairs "two and two" always "make four." "When you have an occidental two and an oriental two to make an utopian four," he said, "I am reminded of the old problem, 'if you have two apples and three pears, how many oranges do you think you could eat?'"

There was an unusual little social function at Government House on Oct. 14th when Lady Lugard was "At Home" from 4 to 6 p.m. to the leading Chinese residents of the Colony. About an equal number of European ladies and gentlemen were invited to meet them. It is scarcely necessary to interpose the remark that the Chinese was an entirely masculine assembly. His Excellency and Lady Lugard welcomed the guests on the lawn which was dotted with refreshment tables around which mixed groups were soon formed, and His Excellency and Lady Lugard assiduously sought to promote the success of the little reunion. Lady Lugard is generally acknowledged to be an ideal hostess, and it is no mean tribute to her ladyship's genius in this respect to say that the gathering proved both pleasant and interesting. The Band of the Middlesex Regiment was present and added to the afternoon's enjoyment.

The Postmaster General notifies for general information that International Reply Coupons can now be obtained at the Hongkong Post Office and at its Agencies in China. The selling price of these is 12 cents each and they can be exchanged for a postage stamp of the value of 25 centimes (or 2½d.) the equivalent of that sum in countries mentioned below which have adopted this arrangement. The Coupons from other countries will be exchanged by the Hongkong Post Office and its Agencies in China for one 10 cent stamp. The following is the list of countries from which these Coupons can be received:—Austria Hungary, Bahamas, Belgian Congo, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Cape Colony, Ceylon, Chili, China (British, French, German and Japanese Post Offices), Costa Rica, Crete, Danish West Indies, Denmark, including Greenland and Faroe Islands, Dutch Guiana, Egypt, Fomosa, France, French Colonies:—Algeria, Ivory Coast, French Somali Coast, Dahomey, French Guinea, Marquesas Islands, Mauritania, New Caledonia and Dependencies, St. Pierre, Senegal, Miquelon, and Tahiti; Germany, German Protectorates:—Caroline and Palao Islands, German East Africa, German New Guinea, German South West Africa, Kiaochow, Marian Islands, Marshall Islands, Togo, Samoa; Gold Coast Colony, Greece, Guam Island; Hongkong, Haiti, India (British), Italy, Italian Colonies:—Benadir, Eritrea; Italian Post Offices:—Barbary, Benghazi, Cana, Durazzo, Junina, Scutari d'Albanie, Tripoli; Japan, Korea, Labuan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco (French and German Post Offices), Netherlands, New Zealand including Cook Islands, Netherlands India, Persian Gulf Indian P.O.'s, Philippine Islands, Porto Rico, Rhodesia (on horn), Roumania, Seychelles, Siam, Spain, Straits Settlements, Sweden, Switzerland, Transvaal, Turkey (Austrian and British Post Offices), Turkish Arabia (Indian Post Office), Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America.

THE STOCKS.

(Daily Press, October 12th.)

The Hon. Mr. KESWICK, when addressing the Legislative Council on the subject of the Ordinance limiting punishment by stocks, made the mistaken suggestion that a local morning paper was "controlled" by Chinese and the imputation was allowed to lie where there is certainly no occasion for it. The *Daily Press*, speaking for ourselves, is certainly not "controlled" by Chinese or by anything other than a consistent desire to tell the truth and shame the Devil, and if we thought the stocks a barbarous method of punishing offenders, we would most certainly say so. As it happens, our views on the matter are like those held by the Hon. Mr. KESWICK—going, if anything, considerably further. But we also sympathise strongly with the respectable Chinese view, and are not in the least shocked by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai's suggestion that the imposition of this form of punishment should be made more universal. The shibboleth of the prestige of the race commits us to more than an expensive post-office at Tientsin. It commits us to a good deal of legislative humbug and injustice. Still, life is not a matter of rhetoric, of logic, all the time, and the Chinese who oppose this mode of punishment on the score of its unfair discrimination are like the young gentlemen in KIPLING'S "Stalky & Co." They have to be shown the uses of a little flagrant injustice; to understand that a machiavelian latitude is imperative in most cases. We certainly would not let the prestige of the race prevent us from putting some white beachcombers in the stocks. Hongkong would have been a cleaner place if that had been possible in the past. Shanghai is a slave to the idea of racial prestige, giving it, that is to say, exaggerated importance. The northern port was recently scandalised because a Russian drunkard was ignored by his Consul, and allowed to face the ignominy of trial at the Mixed Court. There Chinese might gaze upon a sacrosanct white man, actually in the dock and charged with insobriety. What a blow to the prestige of the pallid epidermis! But it seems to us that as the man had been rolling about the public street before he was arrested and charged, that prestige was already sufficiently chipped and bulged to stand one more dent. If anything, the prestige must have gained a little by the public demonstration that the white man's justice is even-handed. In Hongkong it appears that some Chinese have doubts of its even-handedness. The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai tells us that a great deal of the opposition to this mode of punishment (the stocks) is due to the fact that the Chinese have noticed all white offenders are exempt therefrom. Their suspicion is pardonable; we have no excuse to offer; we regret that our only argument in favour of the policy is one of expediency. It would be hypocritical to claim that it is fair, or just. But that most excellent Head-master of KIPLING'S old school was wise enough to know that there are occasions when flagrant injustice is necessary and not immoral. The parallel appeals to us as being worth insisting upon. The Chinese law breaker, even in a British Colony, does not wear the *toga virilis*. He is on a par with the schoolboy, for whom long experience has shown that the whipping block and the birch are best. There be sentimentalists who deplore the brutality of corporal punishment, and their inexperienced cackle in the newspapers has unfortunately been taken far too seriously from time to time.

For such we know an infallible cure. Put them in charge of a form of healthy boys, or in authority over a gang of guileless Celestials, and we prophesy an instant and amazing conversion to commonsense and the rod. But in Hongkong and Shanghai this is quite well understood. It is only the griffins who lisp these sentimental objections, and they soon grow out of it. There is no need to labour the point that pedagogic methods are needed in the interest of law and order. Shanghai's experience is not unique. As it happens, the Hon. Mr. KESWICK was as much at sea with regard to the object of the Bill as he was in his reference to "one of the morning papers." It was not to abolish the stocks at all, but to use them more discreetly. The school master who habituates his boys to a daily flourishing of the cane deprives himself of a useful deterrent. The thing by familiarity loses its terrors; and it was felt that the reckless imposition of the stocks for petty offences was robbing the apparatus of its wholesome significance. A poor coolie who causes what an intelligent policeman is pleased to regard as an obstruction is not a wicked person. He has no business in the stocks. Even a Chinaman who dares to hawk goods without first getting a licence is not sufficiently depraved to deserve that ignominy. There is not the least fear that this Bill will encourage criminals, or we would hasten to decry it. Instead, even at the risk of falling under suspicions of being "controlled" by somebody or other we have pleasure in recording approval of it. Seriously, we trust that the Hon. Mr. KESWICK has not set a fashion by his opening remark in the Legislative Council. While not very serious in itself, being badly aimed, it reminds us that we have to trust to His Excellency the GOVERNOR to protect the Press and others against unparliamentary imputations. We always give hon. members credit for honest intention and good faith, and we expect reciprocity.

GERMANY AND THE HAGUE CONGRESS.

(Daily Press, October 14th.)

There is no doubt that the Congress at the Hague has proved a disappointment, both for those who had their axes to grind as for those who came with some sort of a distant hope that the Congress would in some way ameliorate the present condition of tension prevailing in Europe. Probably a good part of this is to be accounted for by the persistence with which the faddists kept impressing on an unsympathetic audience their peculiar views; and by this means rendered those whose main object was simple obstruction more powerful when they sought to block the way to all progress. In the face of the uncertainty as to what a single day may bring forth in the present unstable condition of Europe, it was from the first unlikely, whatever its own feelings on the subject should be, that any one Power would so far show its hand as to take part in any discussion having peace as a mere abstraction in view. All are sincerely desirous of peace; and there is no reason to disbelieve the German Chancellor when he affirms that in the continuance of peace rests in a great measure the prosperity of Germany. Peace has been very favourable to Germany. It has done for her what few other nations in history have to record; and has enabled her without bloodshed to build up a greater European Empire than with the assistance of bloody and wasteful wars has fallen to the lot of any other Power in ancient or modern times. She has by no

means completed her list of intended conquests, which she hopes to accomplish without the necessity of war; fortune has been so far on her side, and things have fallen to her almost in a natural way; and such is the used up condition of the Continent generally, that to her statesmen it seems not at all improbable that there are more such wind-falls in store. She, of course, does not like to talk of these things; an untoward word might light a spark amidst the unheeded rubbish lying around, and the whole of her uncompleted edifice might be consumed in even less time than it has taken to erect. There are thus very tangible reasons both why Germany should like peace, and also why she should not like to have to discuss it. But there are other reasons why the mention of war should be distasteful. As the case stands Germany has the credit of being the only nation in Europe thoroughly prepared for war; how thoroughly is a moot point, and as long as this remains an unknown quantity its moral effect is practically as effective as would be an, even successful, campaign. This has been curiously illustrated during the whole progress of the Moroccan negotiations, wherein, however, she has had the address never to utter a word that could be construed into a threat. With the other continental nations the discussion of peace has sounded as a mere hollow mockery, a thing which they felt had nothing to do with them. The whole European system had arrived at a stage of unstable equilibrium; the growth of the German Empire had so overweighted the remainder, that unless the counterpoise were shifted a general collapse of the entire fabric was bound to occur in the near future. This was the prospect that one and all had to face, but from which all shrank, and feared to utter the word even in their inmost hearts, lest, like Midas's ears, the secret would out.

This is, of course, the unconscious cause which has made all the Powers so desirous of procuring allies, yet which seems with nearly all to have paralysed their best efforts at working together efficiently. The most conspicuous instance of this is France and England. The two countries had been long coming together; they had had old sores to forget, which being close neighbours, and thrown constantly in contact, would now and then crop up. Still both were glad when the time came to cordially welcome an understanding. The understanding is good enough in time of peace; both have found out that their little bickerings did not from a social or financial point of view pay. Like Jack Spratt and his wife they are mutually complementary. Jafe, Spratt could eat no fat, his wife would have no lean; so France and England working together have found too that they could lick the platter clean, and have no leavings. But unfortunately both have neglected to take thought for the future, and piled up no reserve for an evil day. Both have, in fact, been living in their past, and in a thoughtless rush for democracy have been forgetting all its lessons, and permitting that discipline of thought and action, which alone can make nations or individuals great to lapse. Both have lost the power of organisation for self defence; and when the emergency comes, as come it will, when the entire Continent is up in arms, France and England will only count as so many individual heads in a mob, each intent on its own petty aim, and in consequence all the weaker as the heads sum up the greater number.

This is the true cause underlying the cynical indifference with which Germany regarded all efforts to introduce any practi-

THEN AND NOW.

(Daily Press, 15th October.)

cal measure into the Congress. If there were one abuse of belligerent rights on which all civilised nations might have been expected to agree it was the sowing of the sea wholesale with floating mines. We have no statistics of any sort to show what was the damage thereby inflicted in the Russo-Japanese war on the enemies' war fleets, but there is no reason to believe it amounted to anything serious. Both sides, it is true, lost heavily through the explosion of submarine mines outside Port Arthur, but these were mines sunk in the ordinary course of warfare, and there was no suggestion even of condemning the use of mines in actual warfare. As a fact there are many philanthropists who hold that the more destructive become the actual fighting engines in war the less destructive of life will wars become. There is a good deal of reason in the theory. Comparatively few lives are actually lost on the field of battle, misery and disease being far more fatal. The most wasteful and fatal wars on record were undoubtedly those of Jenghiz Khan and his successors, and in these gunpowder had scarcely come into use, and played a very small part in the destruction. Bad as were the evil effects of the Napoleonic wars, the destruction of life and property was light compared with the Thirty Years War, during the progress of which Europe was almost entirely converted into a desert wilderness. If the improvement in weapons and explosives that has marked the last half century, be carried on on the same scale for another half century, such will be the destruction of life in the field, that one or two battles will necessarily exhaust both belligerents; and there will be little left for disease and famine to do. But the sowing of mines in the open sea is actually a return to the most barbarous practices of the past, and is even more dangerous for the innocent neutral trader than for the belligerents themselves. Germany, however, all through the negotiations displayed such a cynical disregard to the assumed rights of neutrals that this became one of the noteworthy features of the Congress. Perhaps there was in this something more than appeared on the surface. While, as suggested above, there is nothing that Germany desires more than peace, she is by no means indisposed to turn to her own advantage the general apprehension of war; to take part in any scheme for the mitigation of the sufferings of the mere neutral would be to lessen the terrors of war itself, and so deprive her in a great measure of the object lesson she is holding out to her neighbours. As a fact military nations, and great military commanders have in all time held in little regard the rights of neutrals; and the neutrals themselves have been looked upon rather as a nuisance to be abated, than as a section of humanity demanding gentle treatment.

On the whole the Congress has taught those capable of reading between the lines many unpleasant truths; but it is to be feared that in the present callous condition of Europe, there are few capable of assimilating the lesson.

There has recently been a sharp advance in wheat owing to the failure of crops in India and Russia from lack of rain and to the crops in the Argentine not coming on as usual. Australia apparently is refusing to dispose of any of her stock in hand, while America is short on account of damage to crops in the Eastern states. The interest of this news for local readers lies in the relation it bears to the prosperity of the Hongkong milling company's enterprise. Four months ago, we are informed, the local mill bought up 30,000 tons of wheat at a low figure, so that the company stands to do well in the flour market during the ensuing winter.

Students of history must often be tempted to scout as fallacious those two hoary adages, "other times, other manners," and the "tempora mutantur" one. Consider only the Hongkong Daily Press of fifty years ago. To-day we print an extract showing that then as now, the question of Asiatic immigration was very much on the carpet. There has been practically no change in the situation as it existed half a century ago, except that we are less inclined to the cocksureness with which our earliest issues treated and dismissed the subject. To-day we dare not wholly condemn the agitation as due to a "paucity of political sagacity" in all concerned, though at the same time we cannot venture the claim that such sagacity is more generally diffused than it was fifty years ago. Manners have certainly not changed with the times; the partisanship on each side betray the old-time acrimony. The disinterested observer to-day is bewildered by the plausibility of the opposing arguments, and is fain to light on some compromise. A London contemporary says there is a point beyond which the precaution of the exclusive Whites becomes prejudice and the adequate passes into the unreasonable. It does not venture even a hint of where that point is to be picked up and ascertained, and that is precisely the most important point of all. If we could only hit upon it! But what publicist dare attempt the definition? Squaring the circle were a childishly simple exercise compared with that problem. To-day the arguments of the Daily Press of 1857 preserve their pristine freshness. We are told that British Columbia comprises a vast territory, possessing considerable variations of climate and diversity of soil and country, and endowed with rich resources and possibilities, even as Australia. Its fruit-farming, agriculture, lumber, mining, and fish-canning industries await development, just as Australia's did. Such development, we are assured, is hampered, "if not starved," by the lack of labour. Japanese and Chinese are really of the greatest service in both British Columbia and California, as they were in Australia. Yet while these statements may be admitted, all the story is not told. The employers and enterprisers are anxious to obtain labour in large quantities at a cheap rate, and they allege that without Asiatic workers the country cannot be properly developed. They allege further that the agitation against Asiatic immigrants is a "purely selfish" one by the Labour Unions, fostered by racial antipathy. On the other hand, the agitators and spokesmen for white labour jeer at this virtuous depreciation of selfishness, and quite properly. The men who want to keep up wages are no more selfish than the men who want to lower them: and even an honest and sturdy race prejudice is less reprehensible than the hypocritical recital of the theory that "of one blood created He all nations." Christendom has so far failed to admit in practice that all men of even one nation are of one blood. They hang the picture up as academically pretty, but turn it to the wall as socially inexpedient. They treat the ideal, in fact, as pruders treat the nude, good for the connoisseur, but bad for the public. Faced with the opposing views of Capital and Labour on the subject of Asiatic immigration, even the best qualified critics despairingly plead that "it is not at present obvious how a permanent amelioration of the situation is to be effected." If such pessimism is possible vis-à-vis only two

sides of the question, how can we be expected to approach a solution while conscious of so many more factors and aspects? The whole subject bristles with difficulties, and "not even the youngest of us" can afford to air assured opinions. Even among the employers, it appears, there are some who wish to see British Columbia maintained as a "white man's land." It is a laudable wish, of which no European should disapprove, yet how glibly, how strenuously even, many of us resent the corollary of "Japan for the Japanese," and "China for the Chinese." How simple, how far less complex, must have been such problems in the good old days when might was right. Really, might is still right. Popular prejudices make majority votes, and might establishes its rights at the polling booths instead of on the battlefields. That brings up another aspect, the Imperial Government's treaties and diplomatic obligations. Evidently race prejudice, like superstition, is a natural social force that has to be reckoned with, however it may be deprecated by the intellectually emancipated person. The British Government had to give its assent to legislation in South Africa which imposes upon British Indians disabilities and restrictions against which the intellectually emancipated have frequently protested and of which they cannot pretend to approve. It may reluctantly have to do the same for British Columbia. Ethically, ours is a shameful predicament, and it is to be hoped that our nationals will avoid the many-mouthed protestations that have tainted American politics with hypocrisy. If we have to be illogical and unjust, through political exigencies, let us be at least honest about it. If political necessity knows no moral law, we can preserve a little self-respect by not trying to ride the two horses at once. Meanwhile, according to Tokyo, the position is this, that the Japanese Government will not give its consent to any restriction, inasmuch as the immigration may be restricted, when the Canadian Government considers it necessary, without any formal agreement. Such restriction, however, would be regarded in Japan as a contravention of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Treaty. Fortunately, most of the Japanese immigrants desirous of migrating to Canada have already left Hawaii, and it is not anticipated that such large numbers will invade Canada in the future.

CHINESE CURRENCY REFORM.

(Daily Press, October 16th.)

Wall Street, like some other thoroughfares where there are bulls and bears, does not always wait for events before reporting them. The zoological catalogue of these places includes more than bears and bulls: we may mention also the cock-and-bull, and the canard, in connection with the previously mentioned telegram "from Washington to New York," that China had decided to adopt the gold standard. This historical item, whatever effect it may have had on Wall Street, did not concern the Londoners very long. The bankers there treated it as CHARLES LAMB treated a man named in his hearing, but whom he did not know. They did not know, but they "damned it at a venture." According to our last mail advices, the manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation gave as his opinion that there was nothing in the statement. "Some time ago the Americans sent a deputation to the Chinese with the view of persuading them

to adopt the gold standard, but after consideration the latter decided to have nothing to do with it, but to improve their silver standard. Advice of such a change would certainly have reached London were it contemplated." Quite so, and on the strength of that competent opinion, the *Times* was quite safe in thinking it "necessary to receive with chastened hope the news that a gold currency is to be introduced." No doubt exists as to the advantages of such a reform. At present China is cursed by a bewildering confusion of coins, and the various provincial mints turn out both silver and copper tokens without much regard for any object beyond that of making a profit. Commerce, of course, suffers by the fluctuations in exchange [it also gains in some cases], and the people are injured by depreciation in the value of the copper cash, produced by the vagaries of the various mints. According to the MACKAY Treaty of 1902, the Chinese Government bound itself to establish a single, uniform coinage. So far there has been much talk of reform. "It remains to be seen," concluded our contemporary, "if there is now to be any real attempt to carry out the pledge given in the Treaty." Out here we do not expect it,—yet. We do not even entertain a chastened hope. Our Chamber of Commerce occasionally mentions its aspirations thitherward, and our GOVERNOR and some of our Legislative Councillors have recently re-echoed the fond tale; but at present we do not attach much more importance to the dream than we do to (say) the inauguration of a public service of flying machines. We note, however, that quite recently our well-informed contemporary at Shanghai has been impressed by its information from Peking, and it goes even so far as to tell us that proposals for a uniform coinage for the Empire are once more being put forward in Peking "with some show of urgency and sincerity," and it would appear that Professor JENK's scheme, which was rejected two years ago, is now to be studied anew in the light of subsequent developments. The Treasury and the Ministry for Agriculture, Works and Commerce are reported to be moving in the matter, but, adds the *N.-C. Daily News*, it is by no means clear that they appreciate the difference between amateur recommendations and practical reform. If in no other department of State affairs, at least in the reorganization of her currency, it is essential for China to enlist the best expert advice, which can only be procured from abroad. The moment is opportune, when a stimulus is forthcoming in a considerable shortage in the Central Treasury; for it must be remembered that with the exception of the Government and foreign merchants all interests in China may be reckoned upon to oppose any change in the present chaotic system of finance. If, however, there are to be changes, it is to be hoped that the advantage of adopting standards of measurement and weight as well as of value will be recognized. The principle exists in other countries; in India, for instance, the rupee weighs a *tola* (from which is derived the word "tael"), while the subsidiary coins weigh respectively $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of a *tola*. In Great Britain, the legal weight of a penny is $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., of a halfpenny $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and of a farthing $\frac{1}{8}$ oz., and the halfpenny is one inch in diameter. A new standard coin for China should not be a tael, which is too big; it might be made to weigh $\frac{1}{2}$ tael and to measure a useful standard, say an inch. Such is the advice offered on the strength, apparently, of mere rumours. Even if there had been a Decree specially stating that the undertaking of the MACKAY Treaty is to be carried into effect,

the hope of the reform would still have to be of the chastened variety. There have been Decrees on the subject, but plenty of observers remain sceptical as to the likelihood of a constitution for China. The forces of re-action are reported to be still active and strong. The recent missionary Decree approved the principle that treaties with foreigners must be rigorously adhered to, but there has been no hint that the currency reform clause of the MACKAY Treaty was meant to be included. The Chinese Reform party has been repeatedly advised that financial and fiscal reform ought to be in the foreground of their picture, but they do not appear to be convinced of it. It is not improbable that advocacy of the abolition of the present currency chaos, with its numerous opportunities for gambling, dear to the Chinese mercantile heart, would cost them many supporters. We cannot forget CHANG CHIH-TUNG's denunciatory criticism of Professor JENK's scheme, nor ignore the fact that even that childish criticism was heartily endorsed by the native banking guilds. Also, the fact that foreigners seem particularly keen on this reform must bring it under the suspicion of the growing "China for the Chinese" party. At present our information forbids us to hold out any hope, and the American telegram was clearly a stock-exchange invention.

STATUS OF HONGKONG OFFICIALS.

(Daily Press, October 17th.)

"The entire superstructure of the Government of this Colony is glaringly faulty . . . and its acts arbitrary, disreputable, and unjust." That is what we had to say half a hundred years ago, in the way of duty; but nowadays, fortunately, things are not so bad, and we can manage to retain a quite Waltonian love for the official worm even while we may be impaling it. Evidently up Battery Path, as in China, the spirit of reform is awaking. It cannot be said to be quite awake yet, for there can be no question of granting the petition of thirteen years ago, that the official members of the Legislative Council shall be allowed to speak and vote as they please. China is like to have a really representative system of Government before Hongkong, where the conditions are admittedly unfavourable for it. The letter of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read at the meeting of the Sanitary Board, is, as reported, a trifle ambiguous. At first we were undecided as to its significance, and somewhat inclined to consider it petty. Indeed, its first effect was merely to recall the story of the builder's foreman, who called up to enquire how many men were on the scaffolding. Being told that there were three, he bawled. "Then half of yez come down." The Hon. Mr. MAY set the PRESIDENT a similar problem when he instructed him to seat the ex-officio and representative members of the Sanitary Board alternately. It wasn't possible, so Dr. ATKINSON thought out a practical compromise. But seriously, what does the arrangement import? Is it a recognition of the fact that the official vote is top-heavy, and an attempt merely to disguise the fact? Is the splitting up of the bureaucratic phalanx equivalent to the covering of treacle over the brimstone, to make less evident to the strenuous representatives of the electors the fact that they must take their medicine just the same? Or does it mean a little more than that? In 1894 the people of Hongkong petitioned Parliament for an amendment of the constitution of the Crown Colony of Hongkong. They had grown

weary of kicking against the pricks, and yearned for a "really effective voice in the management of their affairs, external and internal." They also asked for "perfect freedom of debate for the Official Members, with power to vote according to their conscientious convictions without being called to account or endangered in their positions by their votes." For very convincing reasons, which there is no present occasion to recapitulate, the petition was refused. We need only quote the answer relating to official speeches and votes. "Only one answer can be given to it," replied Lord RIPON, the Secretary of State, and that was "that the paid servants of the Government cannot be left free to oppose the Government. I should be surprised to learn that the Officials themselves wished to be given this freedom. It is in fact not peculiar to the Crown Colony system; it is of the essence of all administration that the paid supporters or components of a government should either vote for and when necessary speak for the settled policy of the government or else resign their places." Then what, we ask again, does this letter of the COLONIAL SECRETARY to the Sanitary Board import? Does it mean that the public officers who are members of the Board are free to vote as they please on any matters that come before them? If it does, it is a very thin sop for a hungry Cerberus. For even if they did vote with the unofficials, the Government could always veto the Board's decision; but beyond that, the COLONIAL SECRETARY's reminder of their alleged right—a right denied to them on the Legislative Council—does not change the situation. No authoritative machinery could induce such fearless voting and speaking, because "an official voting against the Governor would probably not consider himself any more secure for a governmental declaration that he was allowed freedom of speech. His promotion or his leave might be stopped, or his social relations embittered, without any one being required to give the reason." To begin with, then, it seems impossible to confer such a right; and in view of Lord RIPON's emphatic denial of the right, how comes it that it should now be suggested to Sanitary Board officials, if that is what the letter means? Having arrived so far, we have got to our original view that the thing is petty, and the reshuffling of chairs in the Board Room, "to remove the appearance of an official phalanx on the Board," strikes us as a childish performance. It is the result of the vote that shows the phalanx, and that cannot be changed. Some minds, however, assume that appearances are worth cultivating, and that the re-arrangement was worth while. There is, indeed, another point of view which it would not be honest to ignore. It may well be that His Excellency the GOVERNOR, deprecating the scandalously hostile attitude of official and un-official members, has thought by this device to make the tension less patent and painful. Whether His Excellency has the power to over-ride the general principle laid down by Lord RIPON, or whether, having it, the official members of the Sanitary Board are likely to take advantage of their trust in him and the promise of immunity implied in the letter, are questions we do not feel competent to answer. Time alone can show us. Supposing it to be an honest attempt to ameliorate conditions neither pleasant nor creditable, we should receive it thankfully and with our heartiest wishes for its success. Human nature being what it is, however, we cannot at the best estimate it as more than an example of good

intent, and for the reasons before given, are inclined to doubt the likelihood of the desired good results eventuating.

CRIMINAL APPEALS.

(Daily Press, October 18th.)

There is no doubt room for considerable difference of opinion as to the advantages of Criminal Appeals. Upon accepted principles it would appear to be manifestly wrong that a similar right of appeal should not be allowed when a man's life or liberty is concerned, as is accorded when his property is in issue, in a civil case. This anomaly, however, is not so great as appears at first sight, for the reason that in civil cases the expense and delay are such, that, except where there is obvious reason for adopting that course, few litigants are disposed to run the risk that is involved. The experience of the working of a provision for appeal in criminal cases for example in the United States, is certainly not encouraging. The delay and obstruction to the carrying out of justice which this right involves, have often been the subject of comment, and it would be a serious matter if the same state of things should be introduced in Great Britain. The amendment which was proposed by Lord ALVERSTONE and passed in the House of Lords, is obviously of salient importance, and with such a safeguard as is provided by making it essential that in all cases the leave of the Judge presiding at the trial shall be given before an appeal can be instituted, the danger of needless delay and obstruction is reduced to a minimum. An experienced Criminal Judge is very unlikely to be mistaken as to whether any verdict may be properly appealed from, and the instincts of justice which characterise British Courts in all parts of the world, will make the Judges lean rather towards granting than refusing an appeal whenever any fair grounds are shown. Indeed if there is a danger in this respect, it lies in the direction of the Judges being rather too much disposed to grant leave than to refuse it. On the whole therefore, with this safeguard, there is not much room for objection to the right of appeal in criminal cases being accorded, though without such a proviso, it cannot be denied that the privilege is open to abuse, and we have seen illustrations of this in the United States, which might make prudent people hesitate as to the adoption of so radical a change in established procedure. It is to be noted that the grant of the right of appeal at home must have an important effect in the Colonies. In the different Crown Colonies the principle would no doubt be accepted at once; but it is a question whether all the Colonies having representative institutions may be disposed to accept so important a change. In some cases this will certainly not be done without considerable hesitation. There is of course one consideration which may facilitate coming to a decision. The right of appeal in criminal cases being recognised by the Imperial Government may be regarded rather as the removal of restrictions which before existed against the inherent right to appeal to the Crown, (which in theory is held to exist in all cases)—than as the grant of a new right—and in this way it would become almost obligatory upon even self governing colonies to accept the principle of the Home Act, and to provide adequate machinery for carrying it out. In an ordinary way a full Bench of the Supreme Court in any given colony would satisfy this requirement and additional expense need not be incurred. With

respect to the argument that the existence of a right of appeal would be likely to impair the sense of responsibility of juries, it may be observed that experience does not justify this supposition. In civil cases tried before a Jury there are certain instances in which an appeal can be made on the facts—as for instance where damages awarded have been excessive—and this has not been found to make juries, on the whole, in any way careless in estimating damages, though there have been some instances where they have gone astray. In an ordinary way a jurymen does not much trouble himself whether there may be an appeal or not. He has to decide the case before him according to the evidence and under the instructions of the Judge—and if he does this, he satisfied he has performed his duty, and does not concern himself very much as to what may follow. In deciding in criminal cases the Jury go much upon the same principle; and there are few instances in which the fact that an appeal can be instituted would be likely in any way to influence them. The Jury are fully aware that their verdict, whether it is final or can be appealed from, will have at least great weight in the ultimate decision of the matter; and this is sufficient to make them anxious to arrive at a just conclusion. Of course where the whole matter at issue—that is the facts as well as the law—is brought before an Appeal Court, there might be a danger in a direction that has been pointed out, namely that the judges on appeal have not the advantage of having the witnesses before them; but this is so well recognised by all legal men, that there is very little ground to apprehend that skilled judges will not be carefully on their guard in dealing with all facts where it would be desirable for them to have seen the witnesses. In such cases they are always disposed to accept the conclusion of the court which has had the advantage of seeing the witnesses, but hold themselves free to deal with the inferences that have been drawn from them. In many Colonies an appeal is allowed from Magistrate's decisions in criminal cases, and no difficulty has been found in practice in this respect.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Oct. 15th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., (Vice-President), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Lieut.-Col. Reid, R.A.M.C., Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. McFarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Captain Lyons, Captain-Superintendent of Police, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Lau Chi-pak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

AN OFFICIAL CHANGE.

The PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, you will see that your seating accommodation has been altered to-day. To explain why this has been done, I will read a letter received from the Colonial Secretary concerning the matter:—Sir, I am directed to request you to remind the public officers who are members of the Board that they are and always have been as free to vote on any matters that may come before them at the Board as are the elected and nominated members of the Board. I am to add that to remove the appearance of an official phalanx on the Board, it is desirable that the ex-officio members should be seated alternately with the nominated and elected members." As there are four official and six non-official members it is not possible to seat them alternately, but I think, I have arranged things in the most practical way.

AN ORNAMENT TO THE TOWN.

In moving the granting of an application by Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Company for a modification of the requirements of section 188 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance in respect of the proposed new building, Mr. Hooper said it only referred to a tower which would be an ornament not only to the locality but to the town.

Granted.

LIMEWASHING AND CLEANSING.

Re the matter of cleansing and limewashing required by byelaw No. 5, the Government returned the Board's recommendation and suggested that limewashing should be done once a year.

The PRESIDENT remarked that if the work were done by contract he thought once a year would be sufficient, but in that case it would be compulsory that it should be done by contract.

Mr. HOOPER remarked that he was one of the committee appointed to consider this question, the majority of whom thought limewashing should be done every six months. At the Board the committee's report was adopted and a byelaw formulated and passed to that effect, and sent to the Government, as it was necessary under the Ordinance for the confirmation of such resolution by the Legislative Council. The Government had adopted a somewhat unusual course, for instead of it being put directly before the Council the Board are informed that the Government have sent it back for reconsideration, asking members to make the period twelve instead of six months. The speaker's minutes was to the effect that in deference to the view of the Government he was willing to allow it to pass and make the period twelve months. He believed it was open to the officers of the Sanitary Department to call upon the owner of any tenement, if they found his place dirty, to cleanse it at once.

The SECRETARY—That is so.

Mr. HOOPER—In view of that fact I think we may adopt a twelve months' cleansing system. On the suggestion of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL, further consideration of the matter was deferred until the Chinese members were in attendance.

THE MONGKOKTSUI HOUSES.

The reply was read from the Government relative to section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in respect of Nos. 191 to 231 Station Street North, Mongkoktsui. The Colonial Secretary's reply read:—Referring to your letter No. 2769/07 of 6th ult. I am directed to inform you that the Government is now advised that the provisions of section 175 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance 1903 cannot be enforced in respect of the houses Nos. 191—231 Station Street North, Mongkoktsui, in view of section 268 of the same Ordinance.

I am at the same time to point out that only buildings which were duly certified under the Public Health Ordinance, 1907, can be regarded as entitled to claim exemption from the provisions of the section.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—I wish to know whether paragraph 2 of the Colonial Secretary's letter is the opinion of the Attorney-General?

Hon. Mr. HEWITT—This is an important question affecting many properties in the Colony. For the guidance of the Sanitary Board, therefore, I consider the opinion of the Attorney-General in full should be laid before us.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Section 268 does not read in the way interpreted in paragraph 2 of the Colonial Secretary's letter. Further information is required on this point. It says, "any ordinance in force at the date of the issue of such certificate etc.," so, ordinance 1907, could not be the only one.

The PRESIDENT said he had communicated with the Government concerning paragraph 2, but had not yet received a reply. He suggested that consideration should be postponed until he did.

Members agreed.

THE TANK QUESTION.

The following letter was laid before members:—"Dear Sir,—Your notice, number 2802, which you have served on us, dated 21st of this month, has reached us, in which you require that the water tanks in the yard of ground floor

of house No. 94, Connaught Road West, should be removed at once. The above mentioned tank has been there since we bought the house and was put there for the purpose of keeping the water for house services. When the dry weather the water department cuts the water and only allows it to come in a certain house once or twice a day and this cannot supply the use of water to the tenants who live there. So we therefore have to petition to Your Honour that you will be kind enough as to allow the above mentioned tank stand in its place for the use of keeping a supply of water to the tenants in the houses."

(Signed) Wing Yee Cheung and Co.

Mr. HOOPER thought it would be as well to discuss the matter before the full Board before the Governor was asked to approve of any hard and fast regulations.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK thought that so long as there was no unnecessary waste of water the water authority could scarcely have any say in the matter.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I understand that a committee had been appointed to consider the question of water tanks in back yards. The matter is really one which comes under the jurisdiction of the water authority, to whom it was referred some time ago by the Governor-in-Council. I proposed to submit regulations on the following lines:—

1. Special permission of the water authority to be obtained in each case.
2. All cisterns to be of iron and of a capacity not exceeding 100 gallons, and to be provided with covers.
3. The positions of cisterns to be subject to the approval of the water authority.
4. Cisterns to be cleaned at least twice a year and limewashed internally.

I will endeavour to have the matter submitted for approval to the Governor-in-Council at an early date.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—These tanks were erected because in former years people could not obtain a sufficient supply from the mains and they had to carry water from outside and store it in these tanks. For cleansing purposes, too, when all the taps are turned on the stream is so weak that people have to wait for some time to get a bucket full of water. That these tanks are under the jurisdiction of the water authority is a different question altogether. In that case no notice should have been served to have these tanks removed as by doing so the Board is encroaching upon the authority of the Water Authority.

Mr. HOOPER asked that consideration of this question be allowed to stand over as there were only a small number of members present.

The PRESIDENT—I don't think the Board has anything to do with these water regulations.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—This matter only comes under the jurisdiction of the Board when there is an encroachment on an open space.

Mr. HOOPER—What is the application again?

The PRESIDENT—To retain a tank in a yard, and the Medical Officer minutes that he can see no real necessity for the tank, and recommends its removal. I move that it be removed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I second.

Mr. HOOPER—The yard has an area of 156 square feet, and if the tank is in a clean condition I don't see why the people should be deprived of water. I am very much in favour of tanks, especially in times of an intermittent supply when in case of fire the water is valuable.

Captain LYONS—Wasn't this matter referred to a committee?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Captain LYONS—Then we had better wait for the report.

The PRESIDENT—It's been dealt with.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Not yet.

Mr. HOOPER—It seems to me the best thing would be to put the Water Authority under the Board (laughter). He would then carry out our policy.

The PRESIDENT—It is not likely that the Water Authority will be put under the Board within the next three months (laughter). We had better settle the question. The reason the Medical Officer objects is not because the

yard is not large enough, but because of the proximity of the tank to a latrine. There is water laid on to the house, so it is no hardship to call upon them to remove the tank so far as I can see.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL moved an amendment that the application stand over until the Committee's report was received.

Mr. HOOPER seconded.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost, and the motion was carried on the casting vote of the President.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics of the whole Colony for the week ended October 31st, at a death rate per 1000 per annum, was 24.1, and for the following week it was 18.3 against 18 for the corresponding week of last year.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 15th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

PREPARING A BALANCE SHEET.

Jose Maria Xavier sued the Union Trading Company of 19 Queen's Road Central and lately trading under the style of H. Cruz and Company for \$50 being amount agreed to be paid to the plaintiff by the defendants for services rendered. Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson Stokes and Master) for the defendants.

Plaintiff stated he was engaged on August 23rd last to prepare a balance sheet for the defendant, and his fee was to be \$50. After working an hour on the matter, he was stopped, and on the following day Mr. Lau came to his office and explained that the difference between the partners had been adjusted and his services would be no longer required.

In reply to Mr. Master he said that he saw Mr. d'Almada of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow, through whom he was given the engagement. When he went to the defendant firm he saw several partners and looked over the books. He estimated it would take five hours to finish the work.

Mr. d'Almada, articled clerk in the office of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow, deposed that he was authorised by the defendant firm to engage the plaintiff to make out a balance sheet at a fee of \$50. On the following day an arrangement between the parties was arrived at and the balance sheet was not required.

H. Cruz said he was formerly a partner with Mr. Lau and others. Mr. Lau told witness that he had engaged Mr. Xavier to make out a balance sheet.

Lau Pui, a partner in the defendant firm, said he told Mr. d'Almada that the firm were prepared to pay \$50 to anybody who was competent to prepare a balance sheet. Mr. Xavier was recommended and when he came to the firm's office and looked at the books he said they were too complicated and he could not accept the offer of \$50, as the work would take two or three weeks, because he could only devote one hour a day to the work. He said it would be worth \$200.

Judgment was given for plaintiff with costs.

Wednesday, October 16th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

MAKING A TENNIS COURT.

Tung Fuk, trading as Fuk Cheong, sued Wong Fat, trading as Wong Sam Cheong, for \$105, balance due for work done and material supplied. Mr. Crowther Smith of Messrs. d'Almada and Smith appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. R. A. Harding for the defendant.

Plaintiff, it appeared, was the sub-contractor for making a tennis court at a certain house and it was alleged by the defence that he had not carried out the work with the despatch that he promised.

After a lengthy hearing judgment was given for the defendant.

Thursday, October 17th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ANOTHER PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE.

The trial of an issue to decide whether Li Ling Shi was a partner in the Yek Loong Wo Kee Bank was set down for hearing. The other partner in the bank was said to be Li Pak who is in prison. Mr. R. F. C. Master appeared for the plaintiff, Li Chuk Ping, and Mr. G. K. Hall Branton appeared for Li Ling Shi.

Mr. Master asked for an adjournment. He understood that Li Pak would be in court but as he was not present he (Mr. Master) would need to ask for a habeas corpus.

After discussion, his Honour consented.

NAVAL COURT MARTIAL.

RE STRANDING OF H.M.S. "FLORA."

A Court Martial was opened on October 14th on board H.M.S. "Tamar" concerning the stranding of H.M.S. "Flora" in Hongkong Harbour on August 28th. The Court was composed of Commodore R. H. S. Stokes, of the "Tamar" (president), Captain S. V. Yorke de Horsey, of the "Kent," Captain Seymour Elphinstone Erskine of the "Bedford," Captain C. L. Vaughan-Lee of the "Astraea," and Commander H. L. Mawbey of the "Monmouth." The officers placed on trial were Captain Rowland Nugent and Lieutenant Kenneth Mackenzie Mackenzie Grieve, and the charge against them was that by neglect they did hazard the "Flora" on the night of 28th August. Captain Tuke, of the "Monmouth" prosecuted, while prisoners' friends were Paymaster A. Gyles for Captain Nugent and Lieut. Anderson for Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve. The proceedings opened with the reading of the report of the stranding of the "Flora" and the statements by the officers concerned. Captain Nugent, in his statement, said he took full responsibility for the accident, which he ascribed to among other causes the strong flood tide and the deceptive light.

Lieutenant Armitage said he was stationed on the upper deck when the "Flora" was passing through Lyeemou Pass. The only alteration of course he remembered was to starboard, this being made to clear a junk.

What sort of a night was it for seeing?—It was bright moonlight, sometimes clouded over a little. There was a mist on the Peak and I found the light rather deceptive, as regards distances and places.

Just before the ship struck how far could you see to starboard? Five minutes before?—We could see both sides.

How far could you see?—I could see land distinctly on both sides.

Could you make out the chimneys or sheers of Kowloon Dock in passing?—I did not see them.

When the ship struck where were you at the time?—I was at the foot of the ladder leading to the fore bridge.

Did you see anything ahead at all, any land or anything prominent?—No, Sir, I was not looking for it.

Cross-examined by Captain Nugent.

You say the light as regards distances was rather deceptive. When coming up the harbour did you notice the buildings on Kowloon peninsula as if they were on the island of Hongkong?—Yes Sir, I did.

Before coming into the harbour did I consult with you as to the amount of work we had to get through before leaving?—Yes Sir.

Witness then stated the amount of work to be done. Of stores to get out there were 61 tons of ammunition, 12½ miles of electric cable, 39 one hundred pound mines, some empty, and small stores belonging to warrant officers to return, also mails and parcels for Hongkong. To get in there were 45 tons of ammunition, 350 tons of coal, about five tons of paymaster's stores, small stores for warrant officers, also mails and parcels for the Peak and probably supernumeraries for the Fleet. He did not think the work could have been finished before Sunday. That was Wednesday.

At this stage the court was cleared.

Witnesses added that the captain told him he considered it necessary to leave on Saturday afternoon for Nagasaki to get there by the fifth as it was typhoon season.

By the Court—He did not see the captain's orders to be at Nagasaki on the 5th.

Sub-Lieutenant Tait said he was keeping watch on the "Flora" on the night of the 28th when the ship was entering the harbour. After clearing Lyeemoon Pass they had to alter their course twice to clear junks and had to reduce speed for about two minutes. The ship was brought back to her original course. There was very little time between the first and second alterations. He could see land indistinctly on the starboard bow before the ship struck. The harbour seemed full of shipping. Both leadsmen kept the leads going all the time but there were no soundings. The speed was reduced about four minutes before the ship struck. When the "Flora" struck she heeled to starboard and struck three times. He immediately called to the boatswain to clear the decks and fall in, and he closed all the watertight compartments. When he went to the upper bridge he heard the captain say "No, that's not ground we have struck; it is only a buoy." The engines were immediately put astern. Before the ship struck he could not distinctly see any land on the starboard bow.

Cross-examined by Captain Nugent—He had never been to Hongkong before. It was on account of the numerous lights on land and shore that made it impossible to pick out the "Tamar."

Cross-examined by Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve—He noticed a big building ahead on the port bow, which he made out to be on the Hongkong side. At the time of striking the light was not sufficient to see distinctly. He found difficulty on account of the halo cast by the steaming light and frequently they were almost upon junks before they saw them.

By Captain de Horsey—He was certain she heeled to starboard.

By Captain Erskine—She was on a steady course when she struck.

Lieutenant Stanley, who was stationed on the foremast when the "Flora" was entering the harbour, spoke to her course being altered after clearing Lyeemoon Pass to clear several junks. The night was smooth, calm, and dark. He thought there was moonlight but it was not very clear. When the vessel struck he thought they were further up the harbour on the island side. He did not know whether the searchlight was ready at the time or not.

Petty Officer Henry Adams, quartermaster of the watch when the ship was entering the harbour on the 28th August, said he could see a lot of lights but could not say whether they were on shore or on junks. After the alteration of course he was told to steer by the compass. She was on a steady course for six or seven minutes before she struck.

Cross-examined by Captain Nugent—He could see the top of the land but could not see the waterline.

Leading Seaman Gillett said he was doing duty as boatswain's mate on the night in question. He declared that neither houses nor anything else could be made out. Having described the striking of the "Flora," he said she came off as soon as the engines went astern.

Chief Yeoman of Signals Bell said that on the night in question the outlines of boats could not be seen, nor could he see the lights of the "Tamar" flashing. Coming up the harbour, he could see large buildings ahead.

Cross-examined by Captain Nugent—He considered it hard to judge distances that night.

Cross-examined by Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve—Witness had been asked by that officer to point out the "Tamar's" lights. They could be seen when they flashed.

By the Court—He could not see the land line after passing Lyeemoon.

Signalman Fairlight said he was on duty on deck on the night in question when the "Flora" was entering the harbour. The moon was frequently obscured and the objects could not be made out distinctly more than 140 yards distant. After passing Lyeemoon he could only see the "Tamar's" when she flashed her lights. They passed through a lot of junks. He could not make out any objects on the starboard side, but

could see lights which seemed like window lights. He could not see the outline of any houses or chimneys. He was looking out for signals when they passed the "Tamar."

Lieutenant Richards, navigating lieutenant on board H.M.S. "Monmouth," pointed out on the chart the bearings shown on the books of the Navigating Officer of the "Flora." The tide up till 11 o'clock on the night in question was practically nil. From 11 o'clock when the course was altered through the Lyeemoon Pass there were no fixes on the cross bearings. He estimated the position at 11.20 when the ship's course was altered south 80 degrees east to be eight cables from the red light on Quarry Point. He assumed tide was running about one knot or less, setting towards Quarry Point. After the turn was made the tide would probably set the ship 100 yards towards Hung Hom Point thus placing the ship 100 yards south of No. 2 docking buoy.

Seaman Cameron said he was on duty on the night in question. He was stationed on the fore upper bridge. At times he could see some distance. When the "Tamar" answered the "Flora's" signal he could not make her out. That part of the harbour was a confused mass of lights. He could not see any houses or chimneys and he could not distinguish whether the lights visible shortly before the "Flora" struck were electric or not.

Seaman Godself, stationed on the fore bridge of the "Flora," said he was starboard lookout on the night in question. Before the ship struck he did not report anything. He did not see any lights or anything on the starboard.

Seaman McWha, on duty on port lookout said he made no reports on the way into the harbour. He saw some junks but did not report them. Before the ship struck he did not see anything. There was land on either side.

Seaman Burnett Warner, port leadsmen, said he got no soundings until the ship struck.

Seaman Wheble, starboard leadsmen, said he was in the chains from 11 o'clock but picked up no soundings. On the way he noticed white lights on shore. He could see the land. The lights were about 200 or 300 yards. When the ship struck the sounding he got was mark 5 and on her coming off he got mark 8.

Artificer Jacket said the engines were reduced for about four or five minutes after eleven o'clock. They were reduced from 72 to slow. When the ship struck it was about a minute before the engines went astern. They were stopped immediately on striking. Striking did not make any difference in the engines.

Lieut. Richards was recalled.

Cross examined by Captain Nugent—In the position he had marked on the chart he had allowed less than one knot for the tide. He allowed no deviation. According to the latest deviation tables there was a deviation of one degree in two minutes. That would tend to put the ship more easterly, and in the position in which she found herself.

Captain Nugent submitted that the letter which he had put in was not evidence before the Court.

Witness added that the new buildings on Blackhead's Point considerably altered the appearance of that point. In the early part of his evidence his calculations were based on the position of the buoy which he found, was incorrectly placed.

Captain Nugent said the Court was not aware of the erroneous position of the buoy and he suggested that the position be taken from some well defined point such as the Docks.

Witness then stated the position of the ship from the Admiralty dock gate at Kowloon and indicated that the position marked on the chart was where with the data in his possession he had calculated the ship would have been at 11.25.

By Captain Nugent—The ship would have gone clear of Cunt Rocks if she had continued south 63 west and not altered her course when the buoy was sighted.

Certain other questions were asked but were disallowed by the Court.

This concluded the case for the prosecution and the Court was adjourned for an hour and a half at the request of Captain Nugent.

Captain Nugent read his statement of defence. At the outset he gave his reasons for entering the harbour at the time he did. There was a

lot of work to be done before he set out for Nagasaki, and in order to save time he decided to enter Hongkong at night. He had entered Hongkong three years ago both by day and by night and he anticipated no difficulty in entering. Outside Lyeemoon Pass there was a fairly good moon, and the points of the land could be seen distinctly. Inside Hongkong harbour the moon was obscured by clouds and owing to the innumerable lights it was found difficult to make out anything. The searchlights were ready but he did not consider it advisable to employ them as steamers might have been coming out of the harbour. Before coming into the harbour he told Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve that as he had only been once in Hongkong before he (Captain Nugent) was prepared to take all responsibility in the event of anything happening. As to the charge of neglect he submitted that no evidence had been produced to substantiate that. He explained that when he found the buoy on the port buoy he was puzzled and after a minute's consideration he came to the conclusion that it must be either No. 1 Admiralty buoy or else a large mooring laid down in mid channel for merchant ships. He was further misled by the new buildings on Blackhead's Point which completely altered the appearance of that point. He had ascertained since the accident that the buoy was 450 yards south quarter east of its proper position. Had it been in its proper place he would not have seen it and the course he was steering would have taken him clear of the Cunt Rocks. He attributed the grounding of the ship to the erroneous position of this buoy. He considered Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve an able officer and he was in no way to blame for what occurred. He thought that the richest port in the world should be accessible at all times and if the accident leads to some improvement in the lighting of the bay some good may have resulted therefrom. In conclusion he added that he had been in the service nearly 33 years and that was the first occasion on which his conduct had been called in question. For 27 years he had been navigating officer on all classes of ships without accident and had during five years been in command of four of His Majesty's ships.

Lieutenant Mackenzie Grieve's statement, read by his friend, said that the new godowns on Blackhead's Point had caused him to think it was part of Hongkong Island. There were no prominent points by which he could fix the position of the ship and when the captain altered the course he (Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve) saw no reason to differ from his position. His belief at the time was that the buoy they had seen was No. 1 Admiralty buoy. He had only once before piloted a ship, a small sloop, into Hongkong harbour. Since then many alterations had been made in the way of reclamation and other works of which he had no intimation on the charts. Under the circumstances he submitted that the charge of neglect had failed and the utmost he could be blamed for was an error of judgment.

Lieut. Butterworth said he received the Commodore's order to verify the position of No. 2 docking buoy and the result showed that it was roughly 450 feet south quarter east of the position marked on the chart. It was not an authorized position. His position was correct within 10 or 15 feet. He had no idea how long the buoy was in its present position. He saw no reason why the buoy should have shifted its position between the 28th August and the 21st September. As the King's Harbour Master it was his duty to have a general knowledge of the buoys and moorings in the man-of-war anchorage. He did not consider the telegraph light on Hung Hom Point a navigational light. He did not think it was shown on the chart. Witness believed the light had been moved.

Do you think the Admiralty chart and sailing directions give any idea as to the direction and strength of the tides in Hongkong Harbour?—No. It would be impossible to do so.

Lieut. Scriven said he received the Commodore's orders to verify the position of No. 2 docking buoy and found it to be about 450 feet south quarter east. He did not consider the red light on Hung Hom Point a navigational light and he would not use it coming into the harbour.

Lieut. Anderson, "friend" of Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve read the testimonials held by the latter.

The Court was then cleared.

On re-opening, all the witnesses being present, the Judge Advocate read an extract of the finding of the court martial which tried the officers of H.M.S. "Viper" after she stranded.

The Court was again cleared.

The finding of the Court was that the charges were proved except that relating to negligence. The court was of opinion that Captain Nugent should be severely reprimanded and cautioned to be more careful in future and that Lieut. Mackenzie Grieve be reprimanded.

HONGKONG CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club was held at the Club House on October 17th when Dr. F. Clark (Commodore) presided over a large attendance of members.

The CHAIRMAN stated that when they met twelve months ago the committee laid before members a statement to the effect that the assets amounted to \$86.57, and the liabilities incurred principally in connection with the terrible typhoon of September 18th, amounted to at least \$600. That was to say that damage to that extent was done to the Club's property in the typhoon. As a result of that condition of affairs he advised that the subscription should be increased from \$5 to \$10 a year, and to the best of his recollections members were unanimous in adopting that recommendation. There was some feeling at the time that possibly a few members might leave in consequence of the increased subscription, but it was obvious they had to make some effort to meet the liabilities. The result of that action was that twelve months ago they had 125 members, and at present they had 219 (applause). That was to say there was an increase of 94 members, or in other words the membership had almost, but not quite doubled itself. From the balance sheet members would see that whereas they were in debt last year, this year they had a balance of \$482.77. They had then a balance in hand, but they had spent the comparatively large sum of \$1467.43 on the building and landing. They had built a retaining wall at considerable expense which would stand any ordinary blow, although it might not possibly withstand a heavy typhoon. The Club had been able to give \$424 in prizes during the year, and that was entirely apart from the considerable number of prizes given by members and friends. They had paid, as they were bound to do, interest on debentures, and had redeemed three debentures belonging to former members who had left the Colony for good. As the secretary had given very complete account of the year's work, he did not think it necessary to give an account of the prize winners, and concluded by moving the adoption of the balance sheet, remarking that he would be pleased to answer any questions members might wish to ask.

Mr. D. TEMPLETON seconded the motion, and in doing so threw out the suggestion that in the next balance sheet the treasurer and committee should show the debenture account.

The COMMODORE thought all members knew that the debentures stood at \$1500, and as they had repaid \$75 their liability was still \$1425. He quite agreed that the debenture account should be shown in the annual statement, and next year they should show the Club's assets.

Mr. THORNE—Has any allowance been made for outstanding vouchers and coupons?

Mr. MCKIRDY stated that the production before members was not intended as a balance sheet, and it was headed working account. In reply to a former speaker he suggested that the books be arranged so that the liabilities and assets could be shown. He had carried on the books in the way the former man started them.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—Commodore, Dr. Francis Clark; Vice-Commodore, Mr. E. Ma Hazeland; Secretary, Mr. Lewis Guy; Treasurer, Mr. A. McKirdy; Official Measurer, Mr. W. A. Crake; Deputy Measurers, Messrs. E. E. Gibson and C. Cooke; Committee, Messrs. J. Hand, M. McIver, J. McCorquodale and D. Templeton.

The suggestion that a special Club boat should be kept at the Club house is to be considered, while the appointment of a sub-committee to supervise motor boats was left in the hands of the general committee.

The acting secretary's report to the members read as follows:—

Gentlemen,—It is good for the Club and pleasant for me that I should be enabled in my capacity as secretarial *locum tenens* to present to you an annual report teeming with features compelling congratulation.

The year has witnessed the accelerated progress of our institution towards that predominant position in the Colony that we all hope—and hope faithfully—it is yet to occupy.

Our membership now totals 219, an increase of 94 during the year.

We have had a very good sailing season with plenty of boats and prizes, having held sixteen One-Design Class races, including the Commodore's Cup won by the Gael, Fas second, Foan third; Mr. Ramsay's prize, first Thecla, second Joan, third Gael; Vice-Commodore's Cup, first Joan, second Gael, third Ariel; "China Mail" Cup, first Gael, all other boats gave up the race having strong north-east wind with a lot of sea running; the Club Championship Cup first Gael 53 points, second Joan 34 points; Official Cup, first Joan, second Asthor, third Thecla; Warren Cup first Ariel, second Gael.

The Cruiser Class held fourteen races including Dr. and Mrs. Jordan's prize, first Tremona, second Annie; Sir Paul Chater's prize, first hanticleer, second Annie. In the Championship event Annie was first and Chanticleer second.

Motor Boat Section.—Six races were held, the following being the successful winners:—Vital Spark, Signal and Tamar.

I may also mention as a matter of fact if not a matter of course that our sailing season had an excellent beginning and an equally excellent ending. The opening cruise at Laichikok was favoured with yachtsman's weather and a large and happy company of members and friends. The same conditions attended the closing cruise at Futachau. A new trophy figured in this latter event, the Warren Cup, provided by subscription to preserve the memory of a popular and prematurely deceased member, being the prize for the race to Futachau. It was won on that occasion by the Ariel, and its first and present holder is Mr. Templeton.

New interests have attracted new members and cemented the loyalty of the old. The provision of bathing facilities under the expert and enthusiastic supervision of our most energetic treasurer, assisted by some of his many cronies, has been greatly appreciated. This led inevitably to water polo, and in our very first season our team has established itself as a force to be reckoned with. In other ways our swimmers have distinguished themselves and brought new honours to the Club, carrying off a good percentage of prizes at the sports held by our friendly rivals, the V. R. C.

We have ordered one four-oared rowing boat from Home and one pair-oared rowing boat locally, and already have every prospect of seeing the letters C.Y.C. well to the fore in competition with our contemporaries, the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club and the V. R. C. This new departure has obtained the sympathy and/or the support of the majority of our members.

Socially, the Club premises have become very popular and the improved appearance of our surroundings will already have been noted.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Cruickshank for his kindness in undertaking to give personal attention to our interests in connection with the rowing boat built at home, as well as to the donors of prizes above named. [Sgd.] H. Pearman, Acting Hon. Secretary.

The *Japan Chronicle* records the death of the Lady Nakayama, mother of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan, which occurred on October 4th. Her ladyship, who has been ailing for some time past, suddenly sank into a dangerous condition that morning, and her Majesty the Empress was hastily summoned to the residence of Lady Nakayama at Min mi-machi, Oyama, the arrangements for her Majesty's journey being so speedily concluded that the usual escort was dispensed with. The late Lady Nakayama was 73 years of age.

THE NEW COMPANIES BILL.

Following is the text of the new Bill now before the Legislative Council:—A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Companies.

Whereas many companies registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1865, carry on business in places outside the Colony and dealings in their shares are frequent in such places, but there is no provision for keeping local registers of members, and it is expedient that such provisions as this Ordinance contains be made in that behalf.

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the Companies (Extra Colonial Registers) Ordinance, 1907.

2. "The Companies Ordinance, 1865," is hereinafter referred to as "The Principal Ordinance"; and the Principal Ordinance and this Ordinance are hereinafter distinguished as and may be cited as "The Companies Ordinances, 1865 and 1907;" and this Ordinance shall, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, be read and construed as one with the Principal Ordinance.

3. In this Ordinance:

The term "company" means a company registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1865, and having a capital divided into shares.

The term "shares" includes stock.

4.—(1.) The Governor-in-Council may at his discretion issue an annual licence to any company whose objects comprise the transaction of business outside the Colony, if such company is authorised so to do by its regulations as originally framed or as altered by special resolution, empowering such company to keep in any place in which it transacts business a register or registers of members.

(2.) An annual fee at the rate of four cents for every hundred dollars of the paid up capital of the company to which the licence is issued shall be payable in respect of such licence. Such fee shall be paid to the Colonial Treasurer prior to the 30th June in each year.

(3.) The company shall give to the Registrar of Companies notice of the situation of the office where any such register (in this Ordinance called an extra colonial register) is kept or proposed to be kept and of any change therein, and of the discontinuance of any such office in the event of the same being discontinued.

(4.) An extra colonial register shall, as regards the particulars entered therein, be deemed to be a part of the Company's register of members, and shall be *prima facie* evidence of all particulars entered therein. Any such register shall be kept in the manner provided by the Principal Ordinance, with this qualification, that the advertisement mentioned in section 40 of the Principal Ordinance, shall be inserted in some newspaper circulating in the district wherein the register to be closed is kept.

(5.) The company shall transmit to its registered office in Hongkong a copy of every entry in its extra colonial register or registers as soon as conveniently may be after such entry is made, and the company shall cause to be kept at its registered office, duly entered up from time to time, a duplicate or duplicates of its extra colonial register or registers. The provisions of section 39 of the Principal Ordinance shall apply to every such duplicate, and every such duplicate shall, for all the purposes of the Principal Ordinance, be deemed to be part of the register of members of the Company.

(6.) Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance with respect to the duplicate register, the shares registered in an extra colonial register, shall be distinguished from the shares registered in the principal register, and no transaction with respect to any share registered in an extra colonial register shall, during the continuance of the registration of such share in such extra colonial register, be registered in any other register.

(7.) The company may discontinue the keeping of any extra colonial register, and thereupon all entries in that register shall be transferred to some other extra colonial register kept by the company, or to the register of members kept at the registered office of the company.

(8.) In relation to stamp duties the following provision shall have effect:—

(a.) an instrument of transfer of a share registered in an extra colonial register under this Ordinance shall be deemed to be a transfer of property situated out of the Colony.

(b.) The share or other interest of a deceased member registered in an extra colonial register kept under this Ordinance shall so far as relates to colonial probate duty not be deemed to be a part of his estate and effects situated in the Colony for or in respect of which probate or letters of administration is or are to be granted or whereof an inventory is to be exhibited and recorded.

(9.) Subject to the provision of this Ordinance, and of any rules made thereunder, any company may, by its regulations as originally framed, or as altered by special resolution, make such provision as it may think fit respecting the keeping of registers or extra colonial registers.

5. In any case where the Governor-in-Council may be satisfied that it is inconvenient and unnecessary for a company to keep its register of members at its registered office he may in writing under the hand of the Colonial Secretary authorize such company to keep at such office only a duplicate registers and from the date of such authorization the registers of members kept at the head office of such company shall be deemed to be the register of members under the Principal Ordinance and the company shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of the Principal Ordinance with regard to registers of members if such register is duly kept under the provisions of the Principal Ordinance.

6.—(1.) When the Registrar of Companies has reasonable cause to believe that a company is keeping in any place where it transacts business outside the Colony a register of members without having a valid licence under this Ordinance he shall publish in the *Gazette* and send to the company a notice that at the expiration of two months from the date of such notice the name of the company mentioned therein will unless cause to the contrary be shown be struck off the register and the company will be dissolved.

(2.) At the expiration of the time mentioned in the notice the Registrar may, unless cause to the contrary is previously shown by the company, strike the name of the company off the register and shall publish notice thereof in the *Gazette* and on such publication the company whose name is so struck off shall be dissolved: Provided that the liability, if any, of every director, managing officer, and member of the company shall continue and may be enforced as if the company had not been dissolved.

(3.) If any company or member thereof feels aggrieved by the name of such company having been struck off the register in pursuance of this section, the company or member may apply to the Court, and the Court, if it be satisfied that it is just to do so, may order the name of the company to be restored to the register and thereupon the company shall be deemed to have continued in existence as if the name had never been struck off; and the Court may, by the order, give such directions and make such provisions as seem just for placing the company and all other persons in the same position, as nearly as may be, as if the name of the company had never been struck off.

7. If a company makes default in complying with any of the provision of this Ordinance or of any rule or regulation made thereunder, such company shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50 for every day during which it is in default.

8. The Governor-in-Council shall have power to make rules and regulations for the better and more effectual carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Objects and Reasons.

The object of this Bill is set forth in the preamble. The Bill follows generally the lines of the Companies (Colonial Registers) Act 1883. The Governor-in-Council is empowered to relieve a company from the necessity of keeping its register at the registered office in Hongkong. In such case the register kept at the head office of the company is to be deemed the register kept under Ordinance 1 of 1865.

H. H. J. GOMPERTZ,
Attorney-General.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the *Hongkong Daily Press*.]

(Continued from last week)

III.

In due course Lord Macartney arrived off Taku, where in accordance with the conveyed intention of the Emperor he was received with every mark of respect, only one slip having been made:—the chief of the reception party, a Manchew of high rank, having failed to board Lord Macartney's ship on its first arrival,—an act of discourtesy for which he afterwards incurred censure and degradation at the hands of the Emperor. So far everything had to all appearance gone off successfully, and Lord Macartney in view of the exposed nature of the anchorage off the bar decided to send away his fleet. This Manchew, who to all appearance had received heavy bribes from the Canton officials, from the beginning showed his hostility, and Lord Macartney, having sent away his ships, and being now the guest of the Emperor, had no means of openly resenting his studied insults, and owing to the want of an efficient interpreter was unable to reply. The first of these insults was the hoisting of a flag over the vessels attending the Ambassador proclaiming that the mission was bearing tribute from a subject state; and finding, probably through the connivance of his interpreters, that the minister made no protest, at Tientsin he was made to perform a mock homage to the supposed presence of the Emperor in a temporary shrine. The ingenuity of the Manchew was not yet exhausted, some report having come that the Nepaules, with whom the Emperor was at the time at war, had been assisted by foreigners who wore caps, his Canton friends most probably concocted a story of their being Indian troops, and this tale was assiduously propagated by the chief. Of all these plots Lord Macartney was ignorant; only he found as he went on that, in spite of the honourable reception that the Emperor had ordered, the Embassy was meeting with distrust, and at times ill-will.

Finding that the victim was still unconscious of the game being played on him, a new torture was invented—this time nominally, under orders from the Emperor, Lord Macartney was informed that under no circumstances could the ceremony of the Koto be dispensed with, and an elaborate ceremonial was got up, and in order to render him perfect he was required to practise it beforehand in the presence of the chief. Although the minister protested, still on his being told the affair was urgent he was got to declare that he would submit, if a high Chinese officer did the same before a picture of His Britannic Majesty. The Chief was backed up in these absurdities by the Grand Secretary, who had evidently been got at in the same manner and the ceremony of baiting went on till the arrival of the Mission at Jehol. There it was announced that the Emperor would waive the ceremony and receive the Ambassador in European style. Looking back at the affair with our present knowledge, we can see that the whole had been brought about by the Grand Secretary and the Manchew Prince of their own motion and that the actuating influence had been a huge bribe from the Canton officials, who felt that their monopoly was slipping away, and feared to lose the accruing profits.

The Emperor Kienlung was at the time an old man of eighty-three, who in accordance with the practice of an active youth got up at 3 a.m. each day, but was so exhausted by 6 in the afternoon that he regularly retired at that hour. Still personally he was a born ruler of men, and as a monarch had too much regard to the dignity of office to willingly place any indignity on a fellow ruler, and seemingly indignantly refused to hear of the proposed ceremony. The personal interview accorded was coincident with the monarch's birthday celebration, and was merely formal; His Majesty evidently feeling unequal to further exertion. It was so far as it went perfectly satisfactory, but the business portion was left in the hands of the Grand Secretaries, and the Manchew Prince, whose ill disposition had never been concealed. To them too was plainly delegated the writing of the Imperial reply to

the King's letter, which under the outer semblance of respect was studiously insulting.

"As the requests," it went on to state, "made by your Ambassador militate against the laws and usages of this our Empire, and are at the same time wholly useless to the end proposed, I cannot acquiesce in them. I again admonish you, O King, to act conformably to my intentions, that we may preserve peace and amity on both sides, and thereby contribute to our reciprocal happiness. After this my solemn warning, should your Majesty, in pursuance of your Ambassador's demands fit out ships, in order to attempt to trade either at Ningpo, Chusan, Tientsin, or other places, as our laws are extremely severe in such a case, I shall be under the necessity of directing my mandarins to force your ships to quit these ports. Let us therefore live in peace and friendship, and do not make light of my words."

Thus ended an Embassy which well conceived on the part of the British Government, and under an able chief, was yet rendered worse than useless by the wrong-headed blundering and stupidity of the Court of Directors of the East India Company. The Canton mandarins had gained a complete victory, and from that time till the death of Lord Nipier, a victim of the brow-beating of Commissioner Lin, a meet emissary of the feeble yet truculent Taokwang, the story of British intercourse with China, is one of unvarying disgrace and humiliation. With Kienlung the energy of the Ta Tsing dynasty had come to a close, indeed the last years of his reign were marked by a decay which had already commenced to eat into the vitals of the land. He had ceased to take with declining years that interest in affairs of state that had marked his youth, and had permitted his ministers to gradually assume more and more of the imperial prerogative. The repulse of Lord Macartney's mission meant not only the humiliation of England, but marked the extent to which decay had already entered into the body politic. Severe arrogance was in fact in the ascendant at Peking, and statesmanship had been consigned to oblivion, never to return.

(To be continued.)

BAXTER GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The annual sale of work in aid of the C.M.S. Baxter Girls' School "Fairlea," was held on Oct. 15 in the City Hall. Thanks to many kind friends there was a fairly extensive collection of fancy goods from home and elsewhere, and as these were tastefully displayed on the stalls and as the ladies in charge were very persuasive new owners were found for most of the articles. Needless to say the work made by the girls in the school was much admired and it did not need the initiative set by Lady Lugard to stimulate a keen interest in the business of the afternoon. Miss Fletcher, who undertook the necessary arrangements for the bazaar had a busy time owing to the absence of the head of the school, Miss Johnstone, and it is pleasing to know that the results of her labours were very satisfactory. There was no ceremonial opening but Lady Lugard devoted herself to buying rather than to speech making. During the afternoon there was a good attendance.

The stallholders were: Lady Berkeley, Misses Berkeley, Mrs. Ram, Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Danby, Mrs. G. M. Harston, Mrs. Ormiston, Miss McDonald, Mrs. Bateson Wright, Miss Bateman, Mrs. Grimble, Mrs. Keswick, Mrs. Looker, Mrs. Brewin, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Carter, Miss Carr, Mrs. Tooker, Mrs. Cutteworth, Mrs. Scott Harston, Mrs. Beck, Mrs. Bruce Shepherd, Miss Wallace, Miss Birt, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. and Miss Chatham, Mrs. Gibbs, Miss D. Shelton Hooper, Mrs. Master, Miss Master Miss Hazeland; refreshment stall, Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Turner; toy stall Misses May, Misses Hastings, Vere David, Jessie Marchant.

Lieut.-Colonel Saito has completed the survey of Chientao, the disputed district on the Korean-Chinese frontier. The Japanese, wishing to avoid a collision, have suggested to China that she should not send any troops to the district. Thereupon China has reduced the number of her proposed reinforcements to 500.

COMMERCIAL.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 18th October, state that 17 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 68,100 tons of coal. Since October 4th 14 steamers have arrived with a total of 40,800 tons of coal.

Only small business is reported in Japanese—rates unchanged. Other kinds neglected.

Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$14.00 to 15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$11.50 to \$12.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 nominal
Miki Lump	\$10.00 nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.50 to \$8.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened.....	\$6.00 to \$7.50 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump.....	\$8.00 to \$8.25 steady.
Labuan Lump	\$8.25 nominal.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, October 17th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$840 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$880 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$920 to — do.
Malwa Very Old	\$940 to — do.
Persian Fine Quality.....	\$700 to — do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$750 to — do.
Patna New	\$907½ to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$897½ to — do.
Benares New	\$870 to — do.
Benares Old	\$— to — do.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong 18th October, 1907, states:—The firmness assumed by holders, mentioned in our last report, was not of long duration, as shortly after the departure of the mail, a disposition was shown to again meet dealers, and during the past fortnight fairly large sales were effected at an advance of \$1 to \$3 per bale. Subsequently, owing to the incessant and heavy decline in exchange, and the reluctance of buyers to meet holders in their demand for a farther advance, stocks were entirely withdrawn from the market, and business at the close is at a complete standstill. The absence of large orders from the country and the consequent low range of prices ruling here for some time past, make all results far from satisfactory, while trade generally has been entirely unsettled through the vagaries of exchange. Receipts during the interval are comparatively large and have exceeded the off-takes, stocks showing a substantial increase on last figures. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 5,923 bales, arrivals amount to 11,277 bales, unsold stock estimated at 44,000 and sold but uncleared yarn in second bands about 22,000 bales. Local Manufactures:—Continue quiet. Japanese Yarn:—Demand continues and sales of 315 bales No. 20s at \$128 are reported. Raw Cotton:—The market for Indian descriptions has been very quiet in sympathy with the dullness of the manufactured article, and no business is reported. Importations are trifling and of the limited stock in godowns 570 bales were exported to Kobe during the interval. In China kinds 270 small bales Shanghai are reported sold at \$25. Stocks: Indian 690, and Chinese 488 bales. Quotations are Indian \$19 to 22, and Chinese \$22 to 26. Exchange on India has incessantly declined during the fortnight and shows a loss of nearly 12 points on last mail, closing weak to-day at Rs. 153½ for T/T and Rs. 154 for Post. On Shanghai 73½ and on Japan 100½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 15th instant, viz:—Indian:—Market quiet, the ideas of both buyers and sellers being too wide apart to lead to much business. Total sales about 2,100 bales with an estimated stock of 100,000 bales. Japanese:—Total sales about 1,000 bales at somewhat easier prices, say No. 16s at Tls. 82½ to Tls. 87½, and No. 20s, at Tls. 90 to Tls. 93½. Local:—The Mills do not seem inclined to enter into any new business.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 10th October, 1907, states:—The collapse of the home silver market is having a very disturbing effect on the already depressed state of trade here, and when it is remembered that a large, in fact the greater, proportion of the stocks are being carried in sterling, it makes the position decidedly more unpleasant than it was before. The drop in the white metal is attributed to the partial failure of the Indian crops, cotton to the extent of 50 per

cent. and even more in the case of some of the more important seed crops. For some little time past this has been expected to eventuate, but the effect on gold exchange in this part of the world was not, apparently, anticipated. Even now the feeling in many quarters is that the movement is only temporary, possibly an artificial depression of the market preparatory to renewed buying operations. However that may be, it has not stirred the dealers here into activity; on the contrary, they seem determined to hold off and await developments, withdrawing even the offers made previous to the decline in exchange. As regards clearances, they have been varied, but are certainly not universally satisfactory. It has transpired during the interval that the order from Newchwang to stop buying goods here was actually a misunderstanding, the telegrams being intended to refer to one particular line of goods concerning which there was some misconception. It is probably as well, for we understand that all the goods that were sent up have not yet been worked off, but according to latest advices Sheetings are firmer and Yarn up a tael and a half. We understand an order for 700 bales 3-yard Drills has been placed direct with Osaka. Tientsin is puzzling the dealers here. They cannot make out if the demand there is being supplied by direct shipments or is actually moribund in most classes of goods. The off-take from here has been very poor recently. Hankow happily continues to take fair quantities of everything, and the nearer Yangtze Ports and Ningpo are absorbing average supplies, while Chefoo and Kiaochow, the former especially, are doing bravely. Even Vladivostok shows more respectable figures in the returns this week, and Aden is credited with the third shipment of American Sheetings. The Manchester market, though still possessed of considerable strength, is about four pence down from the early part of September, but it is not very active, though there are signs that business from this would be acceptable to make up for the probable falling off in the demand for India. The report that the recent decline in Cotton in the United States was due to financial stringency in the money market, has been confirmed by written advices. The quantity ginned to date is certainly less than the average of former years, but it looks doubtful now whether the scheme to nurse the market by holding back supplies, with the aid of the Southern bankers, will come to anything, prices for forward 'option' in New York keeping very low, namely 11.13 cents for December, and 11.38 cents for January. The Liverpool spot price for Mid. American is 6.6½d., "futures" 6.20d, and Egyptian 10½d for spot. The Yarn market is quiet, buyers being very slow in recognising the more favourable exchange prevailing. With the altered conditions financially prevailing in Corea the fall in exchange militates against business with that country. Native Cotton is steadier in consequence of a better export demand for Japan. Almost the entire business of the week has been confined to the auctions. We have heard of a few cases of White Shirtings being sold from stock at about Tls. 3.85 to Tls. 3.95, the replacing cost being about Tls. 4.30, but except in retail quantities on about the same basis there is nothing doing worth mentioning. For early arrival some 6,000 pieces 8.4 lbs. Shirtings are just reported. At auction prices have ruled somewhat irregularly, though perhaps slightly better on the average, but not sufficient to counteract the lower exchange. 7-lb. Shirtings were steady to three candareens lower, 8.4 lbs. from a decline of 8 candareens to an advance of as much at the sale yesterday, but to-day the range was from minus 3 to plus 5 candareens. In Heavy Shirtings the proportion was in favour of the sellers, while 12 lbs. 36-inch went at steady prices to four candareens up. In White Shirtings the tendency was higher throughout, some chops advancing upwards of a mace. Irishes were slightly weaker, but Bleached T-Cloths firmer. 32-inch grey T-Cloths were irregular, but 36-inch advanced 2 candareens this morning. Jeans went at firmer prices. Turkey Reds with few exceptions are weak and in some cases much lower. Fast Black Cotton Italians on the whole showed a firmer tendency this morning, some chops advancing two mace. Woollens.—These have improved somewhat at auction, but there seems to be no consistency about prices. Drills and Sheetings.—We have not heard of anything doing from first hands, but in some quarters clearances have shown an improvement. We understand that Prepperell Drills, which were hanging fire at Tls. 4.40, have changed hands at Tls. 4.45. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—The continued decline in sterling rates during the interval has put everything at sixes and sevens, operators showing little disposition to pay up the differences which holders are naturally asking.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s weekly report, dated Shanghai 10th October, 1907.—Owing to the severe collapse in exchange, business during the week has been at a standstill, neither buyers nor sellers caring to grapple with a situation which has had such an unstable basis from one day to the next as has been the case in the interval. Clearances have been somewhat impeded by rain, but have progressed at a fair rate, and although for Hankow they have fallen off owing to stringency of the money market in that outlet, the off-take for other centres has counter-balanced this. There are slight indications of a better inquiry emanating from the Tientsin market this week, and although the only sign as yet is in a trifling inquiry for White Shirtings and 3½-yard American Sheetings it is hopeful to see any spark of demand from a market which has been crushed for so long past by the weight of its over-supplies. Grey Shirtings 8½-lb. — The decline in exchange has given a slightly firmer tone to prices though the absence of demand prevents an advance of any magnitude. T-Cloths.—We have to report a blank week. Auctions steady on the whole. Jeans.—A sale of English make under Elephant chop at Tls. 2.90, is all that we have heard of. A firm tone ruled at auction. White Shirtings.—Inquiry is very dormant and only a few retail purchases have been made. Drills.—American makes are quiet but steady, a little business having been brought to book at about last prices. The tone of the market for English Drills is fairly firm as a result of comparatively short stocks, though there is very little inquiry noticeable. Sheetings.—There is nothing of interest to report under this head besides a few re-sales made to Tientsin. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—Old stocks of Figured Cotton Lastings and Fast Blacks are reported to be moving off at figures that leave a smart loss to the sellers. Worsteds and Woollens.—Dealers have filled their requirements at the auctions where all Woollens were easier. Cotton.—Local cotton underwent no change during the first part of the week under review, but during the last few days prices have been advanced about 2 mace for most qualities as a result of the spell of bad weather.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 10th October, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 34.00
Do. Seconds	31.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected.....	22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	10.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	8.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute.....	4.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	10.80
Animal Tallow	10.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	14.50
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.80
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.30
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.80
Tea Oil	—

For steamer *Goeben*, sailed on 10th October, 1907. For Port said:—11 cases chinaware. For Genoa:—338 bales raw silk, 290 cases cassia, 50 bales wast silk, 8 cases chinaware, 4 cases champagne wood trunks. For Antwerp:—100 pkgs. tea, 10 bales leaf tobacco, 10 cases bristles, 9 cases chinaware, 6 cases cigars, 1 cases silk. For Amsterdam:—75 cases preserves, 4 cases cigars. For Rotterdam:—200 pkgs. tea, 175 cases preserves, 15 cases preserves, 6 cases tea sticks, 3 cases ginger. For Bremen:—132 cases preserves, 87 rolls matting, 33 cases blackwoodware, 28 bales feathers, 10 bales leaf tobacco, 6 cases preserves. For Hamburg:—160 cases preserves, 100 bales hemp, 68 cases bristles, 50 cases ginger, 43 bales feathers, 49 cases blackwoodware, 12 cases chinaware, 10 cases curios, 6 cases finger, 4 cases paper, 1 case silk. For Copenhagen:—8 cases preserves. For London:—6 cases cigars.

Per P. & O. steamer *Namur*, sailed on 10th October. For Antwerp:—5 cases bristles, 58 bales cartridge cases, 4 cases ginger, 450 bales hemp. For Rotterdam:—350 bales hemp. For Manchester: 75 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—6 cases china and copper ware. For London:—6,993 bales hemp, 59 cases tea, 39 cases furniture and effects, 42 chests opium, 2 cases brandy, 3 cases empty gas cylinders, 347 packages preserves, 75 cases merchandise, 34 cases china ware, 2 cases ginger, 100 bales waste silk, 8 cases earthenware, 3 cases feathers. For Genoa:—250 bales hemp. For Marseilles:—225 bales waste silk, 13 cases bristles.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 18th October, 1907.—Without any material increase in the volume of business, we have to report considerably more movement in the market, and it is only the disinclination of holders of stocks to meet the incipient demand which has prevented a comparatively fair business from having been put through. Rates in most, and in some important, cases have improved, and all have ruled from steady to strong. The continued fall in sterling exchange is responsible to some extent for this improved tone of the market, but other reasons have, in some few cases, assisted the rise in rates. Exchange on London closes at 2/0 3/4 for T.T. On Shanghai at 73 1/2.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have improved in Hongkong to \$665 for old, and to 660 for new shares, after sales at \$650 and 660 for the old issue, while the London market remains unchanged at £77. 10s., the market closing with local buyers at quotations. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved without business to \$765 and close in demand at that rate. North Chinas have found further buyers at 75, and more shares could be placed without difficulty. Yangtzes continue with sellers and without business, and Cantons are still on the market with no sales to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found further buyers at \$300, and close steady at that rate. Chinas have been placed at 86, also closing steady.

SHIPPING.—An enquiry for Hongkong, Canton and Macao has resulted in sales at \$27, and the market closes with further buyers at that rate. Indo-Chinas remain weak and unchanged at quotations, without any local business to report; the London rates are unchanged. Star Ferries, both old and new, also China-Manilas are in demand at quotations without bringing any shares on the market. Douglases continue at the nominal rate of 37 1/2.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved, after sales at 98, 100 and 102 to 105, with reported buyers at the last rate. Luzons continue neglected.

MINING.—With the exception of a slight weakness in Raubs, which are on offer at time of closing at 9 1/2, we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in a small demand, and the rate has risen to 102 with sales, closing with buyers. Kowloons have found buyers at 67, closing with sellers at 67 1/2. Shanghai Docks receded in the North during the week to 72, but close a little better with sales at 73. Hongkew Wharves have also declined in the North, and are quoted at the close at 200 sellers. Amoy Docks remain neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet, and we have no sales to report; Kowloon Lands remain on offer at 36, without sales. Hotels and Humphreys are enquired for at quotations, but we have heard of no business. West Points continue without attention at 48.

COTTON MILLS.—Internationals have declined in Shanghai to 53, and Laou Kung Mows to 280. Other Cottons call for no attention.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been the medium of a fair business at 10 and 10 1/2, and a small sale is reported at 10 1/2, the market closing steady at 10 1/2. Cements, after sales at 11 1/2, 11.60, 11 1/2, close firm at the last rate, with the possibility of a slightly higher rate being paid. Icos, China Lights, and Watsons have changed hands at quotations. Electrics, Peak Trams, Ropes, and Powells are enquired for at quotations, the last after small sales at 5 and 5 1/2.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	{ \$125	{ \$665, buyers \$660, buyers
	{ \$125	{ Ln. £77.10 Ln. £76 new i.
National B. of China	£6	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6½
China-Borneo Co.		\$12 { \$10½,
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$6, sales & buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$8.90, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 60
Hongkong		\$10 { \$10½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 53
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 280
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16.75, x.d. sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$67, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$102, buyers
New Amoy Dock		\$6½ { \$11, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 73,
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 201
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$16, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240, sales
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25½, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$270, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, sales
North China	£5	Tls. 75, sal. & buy.
Union	\$100	\$765, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$170, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$96
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$36 sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101
West Point Building	\$50	\$48
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$470, buyers
Raubs	18 10	\$9½, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$12, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2, (new) buy.
	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$105, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$37½,
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$27, sales & buy.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	{ \$41, Prof'd., sel. \$29, Def'd., sellers
Shell Transport Co	£1	\$3 - sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$10, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22 sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm	\$10	\$5½, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$0	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 10th October, 1907, states:—Business since our last has been extremely dull and only very few transactions have taken place. A further weakening in the price of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves is the only feature of interest. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Shares have also weakened somewhat, but transactions are very few and far between in this stock now. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No transactions are reported and the same rates as last week prevail, viz., \$650 for the old shares and \$640 for the new. The T. T. rate on London

to-day is 2/11 1/2. Insurance.—There is no business reported. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Some transactions are recorded at Tls. 45. The market closes with sellers. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. A few small lots have changed hands at Tls. 75 for December, and the market closes weak. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. The market opened with sales at Tls. 220 for October and December the cash rate being nominally Tls. 215. This price being unobtainable when several shares came into the market, the next business was done at Tls. 210 cash and Tls. 212 1/2 October. The market strengthened somewhat after this and rates at closing are quoted as Tls. 212 1/2 cash and Tls. 217 sellers for December. Some transactions have taken place for March at Tls. 226 and Tls. 224, closing weak with sellers at Tls. 223. Sugars and Mining.—Nothing reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been dealt in at Tls. 131 for cash. Anglo-French Lands have been placed at Tls. 131. Industrial.—Ewos. These shares have suffered a sharp decline this week. Sales have been made at Tls. 63 and Tls. 62 for December. There are now further sellers at Tls. 61 and possibly Tls. 60. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. On the 3rd instant some shares were placed at Tls. 336 for cash and Tls. 347 1/2 for December. The market quickly declined, and the best rate obtainable was Tls. 330 for cash. No shares appearing at this rate, Tls. 332 1/2 was paid and the market remains nominally at this figure. For December Tls. 340 was the closing quotation. Miscellaneous.—Hall & Holtz. Shares have been dealt in at \$21 1/2. Hotel des Colonies are reported at Tls. 13, Shanghai Electric and Asbestos Co. have been placed at \$21. Loans and Debentures.—No business is reported.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, October 18th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2 0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2 0 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2 1 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2 1 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 1 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	258 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	264
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	21 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	50 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	51 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	153 1/2
Bank, on demand	154
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	153 1/2
Bank on demand	154
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	74 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	100 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	100 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	12 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	123 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	3 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	3 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	72
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.60
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$50.7 1/2
BAR SILVER, per oz	28 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent
Chinese 20 cents pieces	\$4.80 discount.
" 10 " " "	5.25 " "
Hongkong 20 " " "	4.40 " "
" 10 " " "	5.00 " "

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, 10th October, 1907, has the following:—Our Homeward Freight Market has fallen off still further since last writing, and now that the tea season shows all the signs of closing, ships on the various berths will find it increasingly difficult to fill their allotments. Coastwise.—Things seem to have taken a turn for the better here and although the rice export from the Yangtze Ports is still "hanging fire" tonnage is decidedly scarce and coast rates are firm, whilst coal freights have gone up steadily in consequence from \$1.25 to \$1.40 offered and \$1.60 asked by the ship.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

- 10, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
 10, Orland, Norwegian str., from Borneo.
 11, Candia, British str., from London.
 11, Istok, Austrian str., from Bombay.
 11, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 11, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 11, Ulv, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 11, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, Childar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 12, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 12, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
 12, Kutsang, British str., from Moji.
 12, Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.
 12, Orwell, British str., from Barry.
 12, Quinta, German str., from Tsingtau.
 12, Singan, British str., from Hoihow.
 12, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 12, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 12, Amatomi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 13, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
 13, Fausang, British str., from Singapore.
 13, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13, Hellas, German str., from Hongay.
 13, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 13, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Kweiyang, British str., from Newchwang.
 13, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
 14, Awa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 14, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Dagmar, German str., from Saigon.
 14, Dakotah, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, H'kong M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
 14, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
 14, Kueishow, British str., from Tientsin.
 14, Nera, French str., from Yokohama.
 14, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Pingsuey, British str., from Liverpool.
 14, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 14, Shinnu Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
 14, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 14, Zafro, British str., from Manila.
 15, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Kumsang, British str., from Singapore.
 15, Luchow, British str., from Chefoo.
 15, Ningpo, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 15, Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 15, Vorwaerts, German str., from Macao.
 16, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 16, Glenearn, British str., from Singapore.
 16, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 16, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 16, Ithaka, German str., from Wuhu.
 16, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 16, Palembang, Dutch str., from Polo Sambo.
 16, Pongtong, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Zweena, British str., from Sourabaya.
 17, Amigo, German str., from Pakhoi.
 17, Arcadia, British str., from Bombay.
 17, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 17, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
 17, Hild, Norwegian str., from Wakamatsu.
 17, P. Waldemar, Ger. str., from Australia.
- October— DEPARTURES.
 11, Amara, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 11, Knivberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.
 11, Kolsichang, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Levanzo, Italian str., for Singapore.
 11, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 11, Manila, German str., for Manila.
 11, Persia, British str., for San Francisco.
 11, Powhatan, British str., for Moji.
 11, Shachsing, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Taikoson Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 11, Ujina Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
 12, Catherine Apcar, Br. str., for Singapore.
 12, Chingtu, British str., for Yokohama.
 12, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 12, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
 12, Keemun, British str., for Seattle.
 12, Neptune, British str., for Ocean Island.
 12, Profit, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 12, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 12, Standard, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
 13, Anglo Australian, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
 13, Candia, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Cheonghing, British str., for Tientsin.
 13, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.

- 13, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 13, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Loosok, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Sexta, German str., for Saigon.
 13, Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Amatomi Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 14, Changohow, British str., for Swatow.
 14, China, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 14, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
 14, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Progress, German str., for Tsingtau.
 14, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 14, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 14, Wingsang, British str., for Hongay.
 14, Fausang, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Hellas, German str., for Chinkiang.
 15, Kaga Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 15, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 15, Nera, French str., for Europe, &c.
 15, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Quinta, German str., for Singapore.
 15, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
 15, Solstad, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 15, Swanley, British str., for Durban.
 15, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 15, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 15, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Awa Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 16, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 16, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 16, Nichibei Maru, Jap. str., for Yang On Po.
 16, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Alcides, British ship, for New York.
 17, Kueichow, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Pheumpenh, British str., for Saigon.
 17, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 17, Vorwaerts, German str., for K. C. Wan.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per Yue sang, from Manila, Mr. Mayer.
 Per Haimun, from Coast Ports, Capt. Messer, Messrs. B. Nicholls and Brockhurst.
 Per Prinz Waldemar, from Australia, &c., Misses R. Davis and Sula Allan, Messrs. A. C. Hauland, J. J. Haulon, R. M. Corwin, R. L. Somers, P. B. Ferry and O. Loewner.
 Per Hongkong Maru, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. George Horridge, Mrs. B. A. Harnett, Mrs. Anna Hanway, Mrs. M. Locke-Macomber, Misses Emma Heiniz and M. Hanway, Master Allen F. Harnett, Messrs Timothy Mee and C. L. Maxwell; from Yokohama, Mrs. F. R. Copeland, Messrs. A. Leon and B. Leon; from Kobe, Mrs. E. J. Huggins, Misses E. A. Billings and H. E. Huggins; from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Lamb, Messrs. V. G. Clark, A. W. Baum, Wm. Gitt and J. R. Smith.
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Per Awa Maru, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Stabbing and 2 infants, Capt. W. A. Quennell, Sir Henry Berkeley, Messrs. Y. Go and family, and A. E. Gatierry.

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DEPARTED.

Per Ernest Simons, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. V. Turner, Messrs. R. F. Hume, Jourdan, Edward Pond, E. Huber and Abbe Robert; for Kobe, Messrs. V. J. Clark and J. R. Smith.

Per Nera, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Messrs. C. Doehner, L. A. Connell, R. Goudart, Rodes and M. C. Owen; for Singapore, Mrs. Lacharias and Mr. Tetsch; for Colombo, Messrs. Smart Jones, R. Yarin, Bernier et P. Bando; for Port Said, Mr. Curtis Edward Long; for Marseilles, Rev. Louis and Gallay, Messrs. Merecki, Hangon, Aron Goldenberg, Lelne and Melchior.

Per Kaga Maru, from Hongkong, for Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Withington, Capt. and Mrs. Conlay, Major and Mrs. Williamson, Miss Harris, Lieut. Green, U.S.A., Master William, Messrs. C. F. McWilliams, J. M. P. Rozario, Berblinger, W. T. Edwards and J. T. Course.

Per Rubi, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. A. Braden, Mr. and Mrs. Marten Egan, Dr. and Mrs. McDill, Judge and Mrs. J. C. Jenkins, Misses Annie Heil and Louise Braden, Col. W. P. Biddle, Master J. McDill, Master Alex. McDill, Messrs. Chas. J. Bayer, E. Knauff, J. Hickman, R. S. Round, M. L. Miller, R. H. Murray, B. L. Dunn, A. J. Eveland, M. J. Walsh, E. N. Stevens, T. F. Millard, H. E. Schiffbauer, V. Boda, J. H. Fulton, C. M. Hodgson, Wm. F. Montavon, F. A. Coddington, Thos. P. Coates, Pedro Llamas, J. D. Dawson, J. T. Selang, Theodore D. Savage, H. R. Bates, N. M. Thomas, J. R. Chouza and T. F. Carter.

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